

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

NBC

ADVERTISER FARM AND HOME WRITER
PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #209 OK
CHICAGO OUTLET WMAQ
(12:30 - 1:30 PM) (AUGUST 7, 1936) (FRIDAY)
TIME DATE DAY
PRODUCTION
ANNOUNCER
ENGINEER
REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

MUSIC: QUARTET: RANGER'S SONG

ANNOUNCER: Well, now we're taking you once more to the National Forest. -- Drought conditions over wide sections of the country in the past several weeks have brought about one of the worst situations of forest fire danger the United States Forest Service has had to cope with in many years. Forest Rangers, aided by CCC boys, emergency workers, and volunteer crews, have been battling hundreds of fires, some of which reached serious proportions, and the Forest Service has stepped up its fire control organization to meet the emergency situation. And since most forest fires are the result of man's carelessness, it is a time when everyone must be doubly cautious with fire in the woods. Three days ago, a series of dry electric storms swept over the Pine Cone Ranger District and since that time Jim Robbins and his men have been constantly battling the flames --- We're tuning in now at the base fire camp an hour or so after daybreak. Ranger Jim and his assistant, Jerry Quick, are mapping out their campaign for the day - - - -

JIM: This ain't a bad location for our base camp, Jerry.

JERRY: No -- We can reach all the sectors by truck from here, except High Park.

JIM: Yep - too bad we haven't got our track trail finished into High Park yet. It's pretty slow work packin' in supplies up there by mule train all the time.

JERRY: Slim left at daylight for the High Park sector with his pack string.

JIM: What time is it now?

JERRY: 6 o'clock.

JIM: Had any report from there yet?

JERRY: Yeah, Ernie radioed that the wind is getting stronger. Says it never cooled off at all last night. Windy Peak Lookout says the humidity's low and the wind's comin' up, too.

JIM: I reckon we'd better be ready to send in some relief crews as fast as we can get 'em.

JERRY: Yeah, we'll sure need 'em if the fire starts whipping up.

VOICE: (COMING UP) Hey Ranger, High Park sector just reported in by radio.

JIM: What's the report?

VOICE: They say: "Wind's comin' up pretty fast. Fire running over the lines. Looks bad. Don't think we can hold 'er if we get too much wind. Need more men. Crews dead on their feet."

JIM: Thanks. Are they standing by? I'll call 'em back in a minute. I want to get the supervisor's office on the phone first.

VOICE: (FADING) Okay, I'll tell 'em to stand by.

JIM: Jerry, see if you can get the supervisor. We're gonna need back pack pumps to keep down spot fires. This wind's gonna keep us busy puttin' 'em out. Tell 'em we're startin' for the High Park sector as soon as we know the supplies and men are on the way. Tell 'em our man here at the base camp will relay any messages. That's all

JERRY: (FADING) Okay

(MUSIC)

SYL: (FADING IN) Hello! Are you Mr. Robbins, the Forest Ranger?

JIM: That's right, young man, what can I do for you?

SYL: My name's Sylvester Payne. I come from Willow Glen to help you fight the forest fire.

JIM: Well, that's fine. We can use plenty of help. You look kinda dressed up, though. Aint you afraid of spoiling that fancy cowboy outfit?

SY: Naw -- why?

JIM: Those high-heeled riding boots might not be so good on the fire line.

SYL: Oh, that's all right. I got my horse, see? I don't go nowhere without my trusty horse, I don't. See what I mean?

JIM: Yes. Well, I don't know just how you can help us fight fire on your trusty horse, but you can come along if you want to. We're going up to the fire line in a minute.

SYL: I'll tell you what to do, Ranger. I been studyin' about forestry fer three weeks now and I know plenty about it. I figured you could use a good man, so I come up.

JIM: You've been studyin' forestry?

SYL: Yep. Shucks, there ain't nothin' to it.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) No, there ain't much to it, once you get the hang of it.

SYL: That's what I figgered. I bring along a Forester's Manual the correspondence school sent me, just in case you get stuck on somethin' and don't know what to do.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) That's fine! That's fine! I reckon you can come along with us up to the High Park Sector, if you want. They need men up there and we'll be leavin' pretty soon. Better go get your horse.

SYL: (EXCITED) Yes, sir. I'll show you some real fire fightin'. (FADING) See what I mean? I'll be right back.

JIM: (CALLING) Hey, Jerry did you get that message to High Park Camp?

JERRY: (COMING UP) Yeah. They were standing by and picked me right up. I told 'em we're coming. Say - who's that mail-order cowboy you were just talking to?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) He's gonna help us fight fire.

JERRY: Yeah?

JIM: Well, we'll take him along and put him to work anyway.

JERRY: That oughta cure him as quick as anything.

JIM: Maybe he'll stick it out, Jerry. You can't ever tell. Got your notebook and pencil?

JERRY: Yeah.

JIM: Well, get that fellows name -- (FADE)

MUSIC: (TRANS)

JERRY: (FADING IN) Look at that smoke roll, Jim. The wind isn't doin' that fire any good.

SYL: Say, that looks pretty bad, don't it? But we can handle 'er all right, fellas. See what I mean?

JERRY: Come on. We want to get up there. Looks like the boys are having a tough time.

JIM: Mr. Ellsworth said he'd see that the relief crew got up here by noon and he'd send the supplies with 'em. Bert'll do it if anybody can. And we've gotta have 'em.

JERRY: There's more wind than there was this mornin'. Gee, I wish it would rain.

SYL: This manual I got with me tells all about how to put out a fire even if you don't have rain. Should I go back and get it? It's in my saddle bag.

JIM: I guess we can make out without it -- Come on. There's Ernie. Looks like he's got the boys taking out snags. (CALLS) Hello, Ernie. How you makin' out?

SOUND: (ROAR OF FLAMES IN BACKGROUND)

ERNIE: (FADING IN) It looks pretty bad, Mr. Robbins. The boys are gettin' worn out. I've had to keep 'em on the line as much as they could stand it.

SOUND: (CHOPPING WOOD IN DISTANCE)

JIM: If the relief crews get up here with that equipment we'll be able to throw a line around it pretty quick.

ERNIE: Yeah. Those old dead trees've been throwin' sparks all over the place. The boys'll have that one down in a minute.

JIM: Better tell the boys to keep clear when she falls. She'll scatter plenty of fire.

ERNIE: (FADING A BIT) I'll tell 'em. (CALLING) Spread out, you guys.

JIM: Look out she doesn't kick back when she falls.

ERNIE: (OFF MIKE) Watch the butt of that snag. Spread out more. Get goin'.

SYL: Say, how come they're choppin' down that tree that's burnin'? It looks kinda pretty, like a roman candle or somethin'.

ERNIE: (FADING IN) Maybe we should leave it up for a landmark, huh?

JIM: Those boys are too close to that snag, Spike. Someone's gonna get hurt.

SOUND: (CHOPPING STOP)

VOICE: (DISTANCE) Timber-r-r-r-r!

ERNIE: There she goes.

VOICES: (DISTANCE --- EXCITED) Get outta the way! Look out!
Run for it!

SOUND: (DISTANT CRASH)

ERNIE: (FADING) Somebody's hurt. (CALLING) What's the
matter, Jake. Who's hurt?

VOICE: Nobody hurt, It's okay. Just a close shave.

ERNIE: (OFF MIKE) All right. Get that other old snag then.
And keep clear when she comes down. Be careful.
(FADING IN) Nobody hurt, Mr. Robbins. There's only
a few more snags to get.

JIM: That was too close for comfort. The boys must have got
in a hurry.

ERNIE: I guess they did.

JERRY: It's pretty hot workin' that close to the fire.

JIM: It's safe enough, if they'll just be careful.

SYL: Maybe I better go help 'em.

JIM: You stay right here, young fella. We'll find a job for
you.

SYL: Yeah, but they oughta have a fella there that knows about
handlin' forest fires, see what I mean?

SOUND: (CHOPPING TREE IN DISTANCE)

JIM: There'll be plenty of chance for you to show your stuff.
That wind's blowin' up more. There'll be the chance to
pay if the fire gets up into that heavy stand of spruce
over there.

ERNIE: We got all our pumps workin' now tryin' to keep it as cool as we can.

JIM: There'll be more come up with the relief crews.

JERRY: We'll need 'em all right.

JIM: We can't let it jump that line. Once it gets into that heavy spruce we won't have a chance.

SYL: Should I get my manual? It'll tell what to do.

JIM: Listen, Ernie. Tell the boys not to get in so close to that fire. We've gotta stop it if we can. But we don't want anybody hurt doin' it.

ERNIE: Okay. I'll go help the boys get that snag down too.
(FADING) We won't take a chance on any of 'em gettin' hit this time.

JERRY: Those poor guys must be worn out. Ernie's been pushin' 'em hard.

SYL: I wish I'd of brought my manual with me. Then you could tell in a minute what to do, see what I mean?

JIM: Jerry, you take charge of the relief crews when they get here. We'll send 'em right up on the front line and take these men that are worn out and keep 'em on the spot fires. It'll be easier goin'.

SYL: I'm gonna go get my forestry manual outa my saddle bag. I'll be right back. Wait for me.

JIM: If you wanta help out, young fella, just grab that waterbag and take it up to the boys on the line.

VOICE: (DISTANCE) Tinkur-r-r-r-r! -- Lookout -- she's comin' down.

(SOUND: CRASH OF DEAD TREE - SHOUTS - FADEOUT)

(INTERVAL - SILENCE)

(SOUND: FADEIN ROAR OF FLAMES - SHOUTS, CHOPPING)

JERRY: (FADING IN) Hey, Jim.

JIM: Yes, Jerry?

JERRY: Hey, the boys are just about worn out. They're gonna drop in their tracks if we don't get a relief crew pretty quick.

JIM: I know it, Jerry. We'll have to pull some of 'em off so they can rest. The new men oughta be here any time now. I just checked up with the base camp.

JERRY: We can hold 'er all right if we get fresh men.

JIM: Yep.

JERRY: Say, what's become of that mail-order cowboy that was gonna put out the fire for us?

JIM: We've got 'im carrying water. (CHUCKLES) That fancy cowboy suit's kinda wrecked -- all torn up and full of spark burns -- but the kid's stuck to it -- We'll have to hand it to 'im for that.

JERRY: Here he comes now.

SYL: (COMING UP - BREATHLESS) Hey, they're coming! They're coming! The new men! I seen 'em! I told 'em to hurry. See what I mean?

JIM: Doggone my soul, here they come all right. Cid Bert got 'em here on time.

SYL: We got the fire licked now, aint we? I told you we
could do it. See what I mean?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Yep. We'll whip that old fire now, young
fella. We'll whip 'er all right.

(FADEOUT - MUSIC)

ANNOUNCER: With fire hazards unusually high throughout a large part
of the country, Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are urging
everyone who visits the forests to watch their cigarettes
and matches, to put their camp fires dead out before they
leave them, and to use every care with fire in the woods.
This program is presented by the National Broadcasting
Company, with the cooperation of the United States
Forest Service.

mc: 8/4/38
10:10 AM

